



## U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Wisconsin*

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517 East Wisconsin Avenue

414 / 297-1700

Milwaukee, WI 53202

TTY 414 / 297-1088

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### **NEW SUMMARY: LOCAL OFFICIALS TEAM UP WITH NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TO REDUCE GUN CRIME IN OUR COMMUNITY**

The national Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) conference met this week in Kansas City, Missouri. More than 1,150 prosecutors, law enforcement officials, and other members of PSN teams from across the county came together to coordinate efforts to reduce and prosecute gun violence in neighborhoods across the nation.

“Through Project Safe Neighborhood’s unprecedented partnership of state, local, and federal leaders, we are turning the tide on gun crime,” said Attorney General John Ashcroft. “We are taking gun-wielding criminals off our streets. The last three years represent a record of great success, but working together, we can do even more to make our neighborhoods safe.”

“Attacking gun violence is not a new concept for this district. And we are always looking for new and innovative ways to reduce gun violence in our community,” said United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic. “The number of defendants charged with gun crimes has increased due to the PSN gun initiative in Milwaukee County. Since the inception of the gun unit in 1999, the Milwaukee County District Attorney’s Office has prosecuted approximately 3,500 gun cases and has referred over 250 of the most violent firearm offenders to be prosecuted by the United States Attorney’s Office, where the average prison sentence is 77 months without parole.”

The delegation from the Eastern District of Wisconsin included individuals from the United States Attorney’s Office, the Firearm Injury Center of the Medical College of Wisconsin, and the district’s media outreach partner. The Project Safe Neighborhoods conference provided training on topics from enforcement strategies to get gun violators off the streets, to creating an informed local media campaign, to community partnership building initiatives. The conference continues Project Safe Neighborhoods’ unprecedented coordination between all levels of government to implement a national strategy to prevent gun violence on a local level, and pursue the strongest possible punishment for those who violate state and federal firearm laws.

The national PSN conference was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice. To find out more about PSN and its local programs, visit the PSN website at [www.psn.gov](http://www.psn.gov).

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